

Woodley
3000 Cathedral Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

HABS No. DC-52

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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"Woodley"

Original Owner: Philip Barton Key

Present Use: Maret School, founded 1911

Date of Erection: About 1800

Number of Stories: 3

Description: Woodley Mansion is a five-part composition with a main block of two and three stories, a projecting entrance bay with portico and balustraded deck. One-story hyphens connect with the end wings. Inside the rooms are pleasantly proportioned white woodwork and plaster details in accord with the Federal spirit of the design. A large ball-room adjoining the South portico, looks toward Georgetown.

History: The tract on which Woodley stands is a portion of 250 acres of the Rosedale property acquired by Philip Barton Key, from his brother-in-law, General Uriah Forrest. Key, the builder, is too often recalled as Uncle to the author of "The Star-Spangled Banner". Perhaps his memory has been slighted due to the fact he was a Loyalist. After the Revolution he became an eminent lawyer and served both in the Maryland legislation and as member of Congress. Toward the close of his life he relinquished his law practice to his nephew, Francis Scott Key, who lived on M Street.

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Woodley stands in a serene setting of massive oaks said to have been planted in 1803. Formerly also known as "Woodley Oaks", it served as summer haven for four Presidents of the United States: Van Buren, Tyler, Buchanan, and Cleveland. In Woodrow Wilson's day the mansion was the home of Colonel Edward M. Howe and later the residence of Hon. Henry L. Stimson who held cabinet posts in a number of administrations.

The building is well adapted to the purposes it has been put. The Maret School enjoys high academic standing. Mrs. Margaret Goodwin is principal heading a faculty of 42, with current enrollment of 350. Woodley has been the home of Maret School since June, 1952.

Reference: Harold D. Eberlein and Courtlandt Van Dyke Hubbard, Historic Houses of Georgetown and Washington, City of Richmond, 1958, pp.150-55

Prepared by: Russell Jones and Worth Bailey, HABS, National Park Service, March, 1959

Approved: _____

Dick Sutton
Chief Architect

Date 11/17/59